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5 LASHKAR TERRORISTS KILLED IN J&K

Five heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba members were killed as troops foiled their infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Machil sector in Jammu & Kashmir

- As Police and Army received intelligence inputs, they laid ambushes and trapped the terrorists
- The terrorist finding themselves trapped fired indiscriminately. Troops returned fire killing them

40 TERRORISTS TRYING TO INFILTRATE WERE KILLED THIS YEAR

Arms, ammunitions recovered

Huge cache of arms, ammunitions including AK rifles and other materials were recovered from the encounter site

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QATAR SHOCKER: DEATH PENALTY FOR 8 INDIANS

India explores legal options to help the Navy veterans detained by the Gulf nation in 2022

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

IN a shocking verdict, a Qatari court on Thursday handed death penalty to the eight former Indian Navy personnel who have been in judicial custody in the Gulf country since August 30, 2022.

The eight Navy veterans are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Ragesh. They were working for the Al Dahra company when they were picked up by Qatar's Ministry of Interior on August 30, 2022 for questioning. They were kept in solitary confinement and were later chargesheeted. However, the details have not been made public. The naval veterans were later permitted to live on a twin-sharing basis.

The initial information about the death sentence was shared by the Court of First Instance of Qatar. There is no information about what the judgment says on the Omani owner of Dhara and a Qatari Brigadier who worked for Dhara. Both are accused of the same charges as the Indians.

Reacting to the news, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said: "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgment. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team and we are exploring all legal options," it said, adding that it will take up the verdict with the Qatari authorities.

NO CLARITY ON 2 OTHERS

There is no information about what the judgment says on the Omani owner of Dhara and a Qatari brigadier who worked for Dhara. Both were interrogated and accused of the same charges as the Indians

The foreign ministry said India attaches high importance to this case and has been following it closely. "Due to confidential nature of the proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture," it added.

India's ambassador to Qatar met the men in prison on October 1 after being granted consular access. India has been providing legal assistance to these officers and it will continue to seek justice for them.

Israeli tanks enter Gaza in overnight raid

Additional stages in the war will also come... we are creating the conditions for them and we will carry them out. I am determined to ensure Israel is victorious — Yoav Gallant, Israeli defence minister

Videograb of footage released by Israeli military shows a convoy of Israeli tanks moving along Gaza border fence | AFP

AGENCIES

IN its most significant operation in Gaza Strip since the October 7 Hamas attack, Israel sent its ground troops on tanks and armoured bulldozers into the Palestinian enclave on Wednesday night to destroy militant infrastructure and "prepare the battlefield" ahead of the full-scale ground offensive, expected in coming days.

The "targeted raid" in northern Gaza came in "preparation for the next stages of combat", the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Thursday. Detailing what transpired during the hours-long raid, the IDF said soldiers killed Hamas fighters, dismantled explosives, neutralised ambushes, and destroyed anti-tank missile launching positions. It added that none of its soldiers suffered injuries during the raid.

A video footage released by IDF showed a column of armoured vehicles moving near Gaza's border fence. Another footage appeared to show an air strike and buildings being struck with munitions, sending debris flying.

The Israeli military said its airstrikes targeted tunnel shafts, rocket launchers, and other militant infrastructure.

A *Times of Israel* report quoting IDF sources said the deputy head of Hamas' intelligence directorate, Shadi Barud, was killed in a strike in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

According to local media, Israel still faces rocket attacks from Gaza. On Thursday, air raid sirens were sounded in Tel Aviv, Rishon Lezion, Bat Yam, Givatayim, Ramat Gan, Holon and other cities.

13 DAILY WAGE WORKERS DIE IN CHIKKABALLAPUR ROAD MISHAP

V VELAYUDHAM @ Chikkaballapur

THIRTEEN people, including a six-year-old boy, died when a Tata Sumo multi-utility vehicle (MUV) rammed a stationary Cement Bulker on Bengaluru-Hyderabad NH 44 near the traffic police station at Chikkaballapur on Thursday morning.

Eight people died on the spot and five succumbed to injuries at hospital. Central Range Inspector-General of Police Ravikanthe Gowda told TNIE that the deceased were daily wage workers returning to Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh when their Tata Sumo hit the Cement Bulker from behind.

Chikkaballapur Superintendent of Police DL Nagesh said the deceased were identified after contacting their relatives from the cellphones recovered from the accident spot.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased. Local MLA Pradeep Eshwar visited the hospital.

CONTINUED ON: P7

The mangled remains of the Tata Sumo involved in the mishap in Chikkaballapur on Thursday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

IM operative gets 10 yrs in terror conspiracy case

NEW DELHI: A special NIA court on Thursday sentenced an operative of the proscribed Indian Mujahideen, Syed Maqbool, to 10 years' imprisonment in a terror conspiracy case of 2012, an official said. Maqbool was convicted under UAPA Act.

At least 18 killed in mass shooting in Maine, US

Lewiston: Eighteen people were killed and 13 were injured in shootings in Maine, Governor Janet Mills said. A man shot and killed the victims at a bowling alley and restaurant in Lewiston and then fled into the night. P14

ALLEGATIONS

Mahua Moitra told to appear before LS panel on October 31

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to depose before it on October 31 in connection with the cash-for-query allegations levelled against her by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey.

The 15-member panel led by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar also wrote to the home and IT ministries to probe whether Moitra breached rules by sharing her Parliament login credentials to raise questions in the Lower House.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sonkar said: "The committee heard the views of both complainants and the allegations are of serious nature. The committee has decided to call Mahua Moitra to depose before it on October 31."

The committee recorded oral statements of Supreme Court lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai and Dubey, who had accused Moitra of accepting favours for asking questions in Lok Sabha at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani to target the Adani Group and PM Narendra Modi. The report will be submitted to the Speaker.

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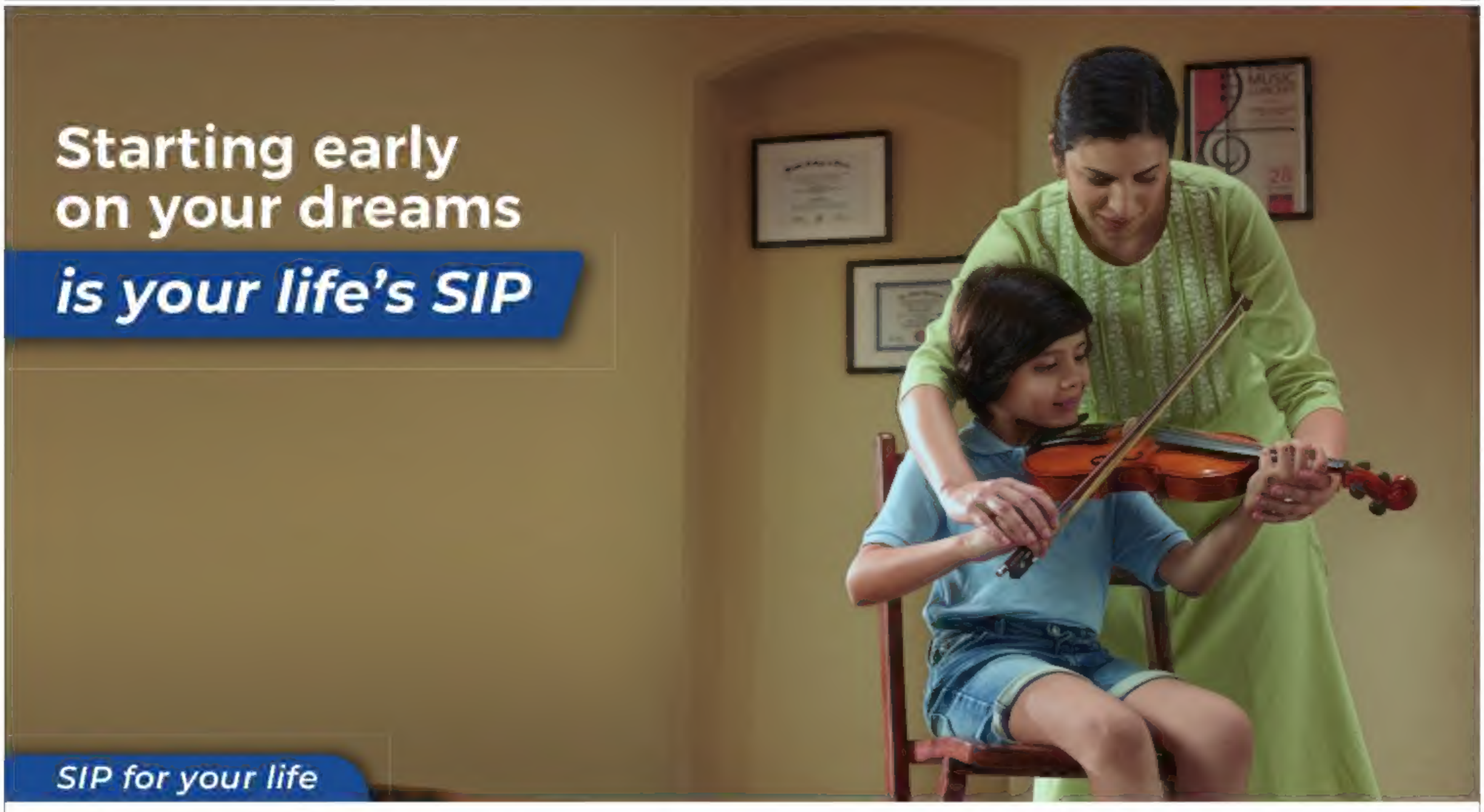

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